

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed July 8, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 3, 5 – 9, 11, 13 and 15 - 17 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7 and 11, and have canceled claims 4, 10, 12 and 14 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 4, 10, 12 and 14 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 7, and 15 – 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. With respect to claim 4, Applicants have canceled this claim and respectfully assert that the rejection of this claim has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 (from which claims 1 – 3, 5, 6, 15 and 16 depend) and claim 7 (from which claims 17 - 19 depend). Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection as to these claims has been accommodated.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 - 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ratnaraj* in view of *Fink*. With respect to claims 4, 10, 12 and 14, Applicants have canceled these claims and respectfully assert that the rejection of these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In this regard, the Office Action contends that *Fink* teaches receiving a command from a host and determining if the command is an O/S dependent command. Additionally, the Office Action contends that *Fink* teaches accessing the table only if the received command is an O/S dependent command. Applicants respectfully disagree with this interpretation of *Fink*. Specifically, the Office Action contends that *Fink* discloses the aforementioned features at column 7, lines 25 - 50; and column 3, lines 1 - 17. However, these portions of *Fink* disclose the following:

Referring now to FIG. 3, a flow diagram depicts the process for establishing communications between the Unix system 200 and the Windows NT system 250. ***At step 305, an NT register program 302 registers a login name and password.*** Each of the calling Unix systems or users can be provided a login name or password which is then stored in an NT file system 310 in the storage device 110. At step 315, the process according to the present invention is started where the Unix system 200 places a call to the Windows NT system 250 by dialing a telephone number associated with the NT system 250 and the Unix system 200 sends a login to the Windows NT system 250 over the phone line. At step 320, the modem associated with the communication interface 118 on the Windows NT system 250 answers the telephone call from the Unix system 200. ***At step 325 a determination is made as to whether the login sent from the Unix system 200 to the NT system 250 is registered by accessing the NT file system stored in the storage device 110 at step 310 to determine whether the login name and password are registered. If the determination by the Windows NT system 250 in step 325 is no, then the telephone call is dropped by the Windows NT system 250 at step 328. If the determination by the Windows NT system 250 at step 325 is yes, then at step 330 the NT system 250 gets the password from file stored in the storage device 110 and sends "password" on phone line to the Unix system 200 and then waits at step 330.***

(*Fink* at column 7, lines 25 - 50). (Emphasis added).

The foregoing and other objects of the present invention are achieved by a computer architecture for establishing communication between a first computer and a second computer. Obtaining means are provided for obtaining a user login and password. Initiating means are provided for initiating communications between the first computer and the second computer by sending the user login from the first computer to the second computer. Sending means are provided for sending the password from the second computer to the first computer. Bypassing means are provided for bypassing a message sent by the second computer to the first computer. Establishing means are provided for establishing a connection between an operating system on the first computer and an operating system on the second computer.

The foregoing and other objects of the present invention are achieved by a computer system for establishing communication between a first computer and a second computer includes a processor and a memory coupled to the processor. The memory has stored sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to obtain a user login and password. The processor initiates communication between the first computer and the second computer by sending the user login from the first computer to the second computer. The processor sends the password from the second computer to the first computer. The processor bypasses a message sent by the second computer to the first computer and establishes a connection between an operating system on the first computer and an operation system on the second computer.

(*Fink* at column 2, line 66 – column 3, line 27).

As set forth above, it appears that the Office Action is correlating the teaching of *Fink* of determining whether the login name and password are registered with Applicants’ “determining if the command is an O/S dependent command.” However, the Office Action also appears to be contending that *Fink* teaches “only if the received command is an O/S dependent command, accessing a table.” Applicants respectfully assert that such an interpretation of *Fink* is improper because *Fink* is accessing the table in all cases. That is, *Fink* checks to see if the login and password are registered for all platforms regardless of the type of platform. Thus, *Fink* can not be said to distinguish between an O/S dependent command and a non-O/S dependent command in the context of accessing a table. Moreover, *Fink* does not distinguish between the login and receipt of another command. These are in direct contrast to the limitations recited in Applicants’ claims.

In this regard, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite:

1. A method for configuring a target device to operate as peripheral hardware for a host device, comprising the computer-executed steps of:

receiving a log-in request to connect the target device to the host device, wherein the log-in request includes a host designator identifying a type of host device;

receiving a command from the host device;

determining if the command is an O/S dependent command; only if the received command is an O/S dependent command, accessing a table of host designators and associated O/S protocol types to determine if there is a match of the log-in request host designator to a host designator in the table; and

selecting an O/S protocol associated with the match to the host designator such that the O/S protocol selected is used by the target device to interpret the command received from the host device.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 1 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully asserts that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2 – 6 and 14 - 16 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 7, Applicants have amended that claim to recite:

7. A system for configuring itself for a particular O/S protocol, comprising:

a table of system host system designators and associated O/S protocol types;

a component for receiving a log-in request to connect the system to a host, wherein the log-in request includes a host designator;

a component for receiving a command from the host and *determining if the command is an O/S dependent command;*

a component for accessing the table of host designators and associated O/S protocol types only if the received command is an O/S dependent command;

a component for determining if there is a match of the log-in request host designator to a host designator in the table; and

a component for selecting an O/S protocol associated with the match to the host designator such that the O/S protocol selected is used by the system to interpret the command received from the host.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 7 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully asserts that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 8, 9 and 17 - 19 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 7, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 11, Applicants have amended that claim to recite:

11. A program product for configuring a target device, comprising machine-readable program code for causing a machine to perform the following method steps:

receiving a log-in request to connect the target device to a host, wherein the log-in request includes a host designator;
receiving a command from the host device;
determining if the command is an O/S dependent command; only if the received command is an O/S dependent command, accessing a table of host designators and associated O/S types to determine if there is a match of the log-in request host designator to a host designator in the table; and

selecting an O/S protocol associated with the match to the host designator such that the O/S protocol selected is used by the target device to interpret the command received from the host.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 11 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully asserts that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 11. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

Since claim 13 is a dependent claim that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 11, Applicants respectfully assert that this claim also is in condition for allowance. Additionally, this claim recites other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

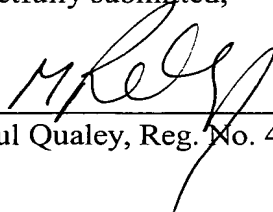
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

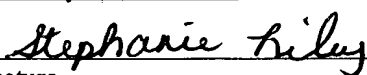
Respectfully submitted,



M. Paul Qualey, Reg. No. 43,024

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 9/8/05.



Signature